
HSD UIR Meeting 3/22/04

People present: Julie Nelson, Kathleen Groshong, Mary Shaw, Mary Flowers, Adam Aba-Husain, Dwight Mizoguchi, Kim Russell-Martin, Colleen Kelly, and Deborah Harris.

Introductions were made all around.

Updates from other projects and related work were shared:

- EAAR is focusing on how to talk with other white people. They are looking to connect with the Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites to get re-inspired and develop new strategies for engagement.
- Study Circles in schools in West Seattle kick off soon.
- There is an Undoing Racism in the Peace Movement workshop on Saturday before the march. Several members of HSD UIR will be facilitating.
- The Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites is having a dinner tonight to talk about their ally and accountability structures. Old, new, or interested members are welcome, it is at 6:30pm at the American Friends Service Committee.
- The "Anti-Racism Panel and Community Forum" at Boomtown Café on the 16th went very well. Over 50 people gathered to participate in a community forum to address institutional racism and its effects on services, policies and funding and how it affects people who are homeless or living in poverty. Nearly half of the participants were community members directly affected by services and the remainder were social service providers or funders. Panelists from Fremont Public Association, United Way of King County and the Human Services Department briefly addressed questions that modeled lively table discussion between all participants. Some of the observations and recommendations from the table discussions included: making sure that staff are more reflective of the people served by race, class and experience; services should not be funder driven, homeless people should be more involved in decision making, not just as token participants; the work of ending racism and homelessness is physical, intellectual and spiritual - all are important; more people in social services need to be trained to understand how racism works.

"Race: The Power of an Illusion" Video and Training Series Update:

- The representatives from the UIR group had a meeting to discuss what they believed were key points or elements to incorporate in the training. Kathleen distributed the notes.
- The current representatives from HSD UIR are: Ward Urion, Martin Friedman, Dwight Mizoguchi, and Kathleen Groshong. Other people in the planning group who are also in HSD UIR are: Pat Wells and Georgiana Arnold.
- The official group has not met and we will get an update as soon as they do.

Next Meeting: April 5, 2004 12pm-1pm, 13th floor conference room.
